

## **OCOEE NO. 3 FISH KILL JANUARY 2009**

- In preparation for maintenance work on Ocoee 2 Dam, TVA began a drawdown of Ocoee No. 3 reservoir from elevation 1428 to 1410 to ensure safe working conditions and to ensure enough room in the reservoir to store water for expected rain.
- During two days of moving water, sediment was also moved with the water through the sluice.
- On January 4, a fish kill occurred when sediments were released through the Ocoee No. 3 sluice gates during the drawdown.
- The sluice gates are near the bottom of the dam. The lowered pool level behind Ocoee Dam 3 exposed mud flats which are subject to erosion.
- Discharges through the sluice gates toward the end of the drawdown released large amounts of sediment through Ocoee 3 Dam into the downstream channel above Ocoee 2 Reservoir.
- This water and sediment mix deposited itself in the channel below Ocoee 3 in and around the Olympic course. Most material was washed away due to the heavy rains on January 6 and 7.
- TVA has received a notice of violation from the State of Tennessee due to the sediment release.
- TVA is reviewing its drawdown operations and will put corrective actions in place.